

From Kanawha Co. Mgt.
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Observations for After Action Report from WV Association of Counties

June 29, 2012 Severe Storm

Strengths:

- WV DHSEM activated Emergency Operations Center and communicated well with Kanawha County Emergency Management
- WV DHSEM filled resource needs when possible
- Provided generators to supplement ours with critical infrastructure such as the Pratt Water Plant
- WV State Police checked in with our EOC on a regular basis and also provided a truck to deliver large generators
- Local county agencies really answered the call. Our bus service, sheriff's office, county ambulance, cities, public schools, and all of the fire departments worked hard to provide for the public.
- WV State University and the University of Charleston provided shelters for nursing home patients.
- Some of our churches provided shelter, meals and other assistance. The Aldersgate United Methodist Church even had a generator so they could operate while the electrical power was out.

Opportunities for Improvement:

- WV DHHR has stated that they would take care of large scale health care institutions evacuations. In this case they were asked to evacuate a nursing home and were not able to do it. Kanawha County resources such as the Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation (KVRT) and the Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority (KCEAA) were able to move three nursing homes to either WV State University or the University of Charleston and back to the nursing homes. We need to know if they can or cannot perform this task so if not we can.

- There is a need to expand sheltering capability. Most of the shelters were opened and operated by cities such as St. Albans and Charleston, volunteer fire departments and churches. It was several days before the American Red Cross could take over the shelter duties. We need to bring these other organizations into the plan and support them.
- Many of the nursing homes that were evacuated or we provide generators for had problems with their own generators or electrical systems. The existing generators were not able to support a safe environment with oxygen concentrators or with air conditioning. The nursing homes did not have an adequate amount of oxygen bottles to take over for the oxygen concentrators.
- The school system was used for sheltering in some areas. One of the problems is that there is no easy way to connect a generator to school electrical systems. It would be nice if some of the schools that would be used as a shelter have a quick connect system so that portable large generators could be brought in and quickly connected.